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Hospital Board of Directors signs agreement with ABV

The Hospital job performance evaluation system always had quams even after trying to improve on this on different occasions. For this reason the Board of Directors and the ABV union got together and designed a satisfactory system, which was signed on December 21st by both parties.

They agreed to implement changes in the actual evaluation system. The original system will no longer be applied neither will they conduct evaluation conversations with employees. Instead every employee will submit to two job performance conversations per year. During these twice yearly conversations the employee



will be subject to matters relating to their daily job functioning, the job environment, conditions of their job and the future. The element of a negative evaluation will be a thing of the past. That type of evaluation was closely tied to a salary adjustment. Based on the new agreement, every employee who has not reached the maximum in his pay scale will be automatically eligible for annual salary increases and end-of-the-year bonuses.

This change will inevitably make the conversations re-

garding job performance much more pleasant and beneficial and will also make it possible to discuss ways for improvement. This will be beneficial to both the employee and the employee's direct boss.

The Board of Directors is satisfied with the newly signed agreement. They are convinced that this will enable them to elevate and improve the satisfaction level of every employee as well as significantly improve the functioning of the Hospital.

US Congress passes tax deal in rare win for Obama

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican leaders bowed to intense pressure yesterday and voted to extend a payroll tax holiday for 160 million Americans, handing victory to President Barack Obama after a tense showdown.

The deal, which finally sailed unopposed through Senate and the House of Representatives two days before Christmas, allows Obama to end the year on a triumphant note after being thwarted by Republicans for months.

With the nation hurtling into the 2012 election year when he will seek a second White House term, House Republicans agreed to back a two-month extension of a two-



percent payroll tax cut, just days after blocking the measure that emerged as a compromise from the Senate.

Their tactics had sparked a torrent of derision from the media, some conservative luminaries and Democrats who eagerly seized a chance to pose as the party of lower taxes, a

mantle that Republicans usually claim.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid had sharp words for new conservative lawmakers, saying he hoped they had had "a very good learning experience."

"People wonder why the approval rating for Congress is so low. I don't wonder. Everything has been a knockdown, dragout fight. There is no reason to do that," Reid said.

The bill now has to be signed by Obama. Yesterday he finally flew off to Hawaii for his Christmas vacation, the White House said.

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US gives Santa green light for Christmas Eve flight

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US aviation authorities have given Santa Claus's reindeer-powered sleigh the green light to fly on Christmas Eve after a rigorous inspection of the "Santa One" aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration said safety inspectors at the North Pole have given the thumbs-up for Santa's sleigh to cruise through US airspace and came away impressed with improved technology allowing Saint Nick to avoid other aircraft.

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EDITORIAL

Why all the Christmas celebration?

Another Christmas celebration is here again! We still remember the 2010 celebration as if it were yesterday...my how time flies! We have all gotten a year older, and perhaps even wiser. The world has changed considerably in this one year. In some ways the change was for the better and in other ways it was for the worst.

Today, I think we need to stop and think a bit about the significance of another Christmas. This may be your 20th, 30th, 40th, or even 50th Christmas, so you may have a lot of experience with Christmas. For that reason you may be saying right now, what's to think about...I have done that too many times and have come up with the same realizations. Well, it wouldn't hurt to think just this one time more. What really is the fuss of Christmas all about? Why so much hustle and bustle, so much spending of money on this and on that, so much food, and drinks and frolicking? Why so much music, singing and dancing?

I like what somebody said sometime ago... "Jesus is the reason for the season!" That simple statement actually

sums it all up for us. We are doing today exactly what the multitude of angels and shepherds did more than 2000 years ago in an open field in ancient Jerusalem when they came bringing the news of the birth of Jesus to a group of lowly shepherds minding their flocks. There was singing and praising from that angelic host because the reason for the season had come to the world...Jesus was born to be the Savior of the world! Later a group of wise men saddled up their animals and made the long journey to Bethlehem to see this newborn Jesus and bring him precious gifts.

So, just like there was singing and praising and rejoicing on that first Christmas day, and just like the gifts brought by wise men back then, the world continues to rejoice and sing on Christmas day and to bring each other special gifts. We celebrate because Jesus came to free us from sin and darkness and to give us new life and hope. Jesus changed the way men treat others, He changed the way women were treated, He gave all mankind new dignity and meaning in life....that is why we celebrate and re-

joice!

Aruba is celebrating today, because we know the meaning of the season. We celebrate Christmas because we

are grateful for what Jesus did for us. We celebrate because we can all receive forgiveness now and live fulfilled lives. I trust that you

have received his forgiveness and have found the peace that passes all understanding.

Merry Christmas!



Ministerio di Integracion,
Infraestructura y Medio Ambiente



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y Feliz 2012**

Laga nos tuma tempo den e dianan nos dilanti, Pasco y Aña Nobo, pa refleha ariba e importancia di nos relacion cu nos prohimo, nos famia, amigonan y nos comunidad, cu e creencia cu Dios mester pone den nos curason. Laga nos usa e refleho aki pa mehora nos mes pa cu e aña entrante.

Mi mas mihor deseonan pa nos pueblo Arubano y cu 2012 trece alegria den cada hogar.



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Obligatory Education Law cumplies with the Rights of Children According to Minister of Social Affairs



After many years of evaluation, planning, discussion and preparations, Aruba's Parliament has finally unanimously approved the Obligatory Education Law.

Observers believe that this is good news for Aruba. Aruba can now report to the United Nations that our quest for im-

proving the position of children in Aruba has moved another significant step forward. The Minister of Social Affairs, Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer, said in a recent statement that,"For years we have been talking about this law, and now it is finally a reality. The children of Aruba now have one of

their principal rights as stipulated by the United Nations, which is the right to education."

The introduction of the Obligatory Education Law entails many different aspects of attention and, as we know, the right of education is tied to our human rights. Obviously, according to the government, we will have to pay attention to the different concerns regarding this new law. For one, we will have to begin making parents aware of it, design rules for our schools and implement a new team to coordinate all the aspects involved in its application and execution.

Basically what this law entails is that every young person between the ages of 4 to 17

years of age residing on Aruba is compelled to go to school. The law does allow for certain exceptions.

For example, if a person younger than 17 years of age has completed secondary school or professional education (EPI) successfully, and has obtained a diploma, such a youngster will not be required to be in school. This does not mean that he should not be stimulated to pursue further education, though.

The government is of the opinion that this new law will not only benefit our children and young people, but over the long term the entire community will reap the benefits of a generation of better educated citizens. Every child will be af-

forded the opportunity to become a player in his/her own development and achieve their maximum potential and be prepared to confront and relate to our ever changing world.

According to the Minister of Social Affairs, with the introduction of this new law, Aruba has risen to the next level and is demonstrating to the world the high quality of life that we desire for our children and for our future generations. Economic development and education always go together. The fact that Arubans speak 4 languages fluently and that our children have free access to education make Aruba a very rich island, rich in knowledge and in our quality of life."

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Holland to help Colombia study flood patterns

OBANDA -- Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos announced Thursday the signing of an agreement between Colombian and Dutch authorities to dredge the river basins of two of Colombia's primary rivers, the Magdalena and the Cauca.

According to Santos, "Today is the signing of an agreement between various autonomous corporations, municipalities, the Ministry of the Environment and the Dutch Embassy to undertake a study of the Rivers Magdalena and Cauca, as they form a single basin."

Santos pledged that the proposed study, "conducted by the Dutch, who are the most knowledgeable in the world on issues of water," will give a "final solution" to the issues of climate change and rising water levels in Colombia's rivers.

"This study will tell us, for example, which areas cannot be used for agriculture, which cannot be inhabited, which areas should be left for river overflow," according to Santos.

President Santos made the announcement in the town of Obanda, northwest of Bogota, while visiting victims of this year's rainy season floods. The town and surrounding area have seen flooding of about 50,000 acres of farmland, due to the Cauca River overflowing.

The second rainy season of the year, which started in September and is now beginning to subside, has resulted in more than 170 deaths in Colombia, mostly caused by flooding and landslides.

Eleven dead, 81 hurt in Colombia pipeline blast

DOSQUEBRADAS (AFP) - At least 11 people were killed and more than 80 others were injured yesterday when an explosion ripped through a pipeline in western Colombia triggering a deadly inferno, relief agencies said.

Officials have said oil thieves might be to blame for causing a leak leading to the large blast on the hillside outskirts of Dosquebradas, a city of 175,000 people west of the capital Bogota.

"We have 11 dead and 81 injured," Carlos Mario Garcia, the local representative of the

National Risk Management Office told AFP after the blast around 4:45 a.m.

"People were apparently stealing fuel," the city's mayor, Luz Ensueno Betancur, told Caracol Radio about possible causes for the accident. He said the thieves likely caused a leak that led to a fire and then the explosion.

Garcia, the risk management official, said the accident was likely caused by a fuel leak but did not address the cause of the leak.

Dozens of homes, many of them makeshift houses built of

corrugated metal, were affected, and at least 10 of them were destroyed, according to the risk management office.

President Juan Manuel Santos took to social media service Twitter to express "solidarity with the victims of the accident in Dosquebradas," adding that Mines and Energy Minister Mauricio Cardenas was "on top of the situation."

The explosion was under investigation and technicians from state oil company Ecopetrol were expected to deliver a report.

The fire was completely



controlled, officials said yesterday, although fuel contaminated a nearby stream and authorities were advising nearby residents not to use

water from that source until it was deemed safe.

AFP photo shows rescuers and firemen working on the site of the explosion.



Gobierno *di* Aruba

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

40 dead in Damascus suicide bombings

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Suicide bombers hit two security service bases in Damascus yesterday, killing at least 40 people, in attacks the regime blamed on Al-Qaeda but which the opposition said were the work of the regime itself.

The attacks were the first against the powerful security services in the heart of the capital since a nine-month uprising against President Bashar al-Assad began, and overshadowed new protests.

"The new toll for the two attacks today is established at 40 dead and 150 injured", foreign ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi said, as an advance team made preparations for Arab League observers to oversee a plan to end the bloodshed.

One bomber tried to ram a vehicle packed with explosives into the compound of the General Security Directorate, Syria's most important plainclothes security service, in the Kfar Suseh neighbourhood of Damascus, witnesses said.

A second blew up a vehicle outside a nearby military intelligence building.

State television showed pictures of a huge crater at one of the bomb sites and pools of blood on surrounding pavements. Bystanders were seen carrying away charred and mangled bodies wrapped in makeshift shrouds.

"On the first day after the arrival of the Arab observers, this is the gift we get from the terrorists and Al-Qaeda but we are going to do all we can to facilitate the Arab League mission," Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Meqdad told reporters at one of the bomb sites.

Asked to comment on suggestions that the bombings had been engineered by the regime itself, Meqdad shot back: "Anyone who makes such allegations is a criminal."

The opposition group, the Syrian National Council, made just such a claim.

"The Syrian regime, alone, bears all the direct responsibility for the two terrorist explosions," said an SNC statement received in Nicosia. "It wanted to send a warning message to the observers for them not to approach security centers."

Egyptians turn out for rival protests



CAIRO (AFP) - Thousands gathered peacefully in Cairo's Tahrir Square yesterday to denounce the ruling military after soldiers were filmed beating female protesters during deadly clashes that sparked international outrage.

Supporters of the military, which took power after an uprising ousted veteran president Hosni Mubarak in February, held a counter-rally in the Ab-basiya neighbourhood, several kilometers (a few miles) away.

Egypt has been divided by the clashes between anti-military protesters and soldiers that have left at least 60 people dead over the past two months and

overshadowed the first elections since Mubarak's downfall.

"Women are a red line!" some protesters shouted in Tahrir Square as others chanted against Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, the head of the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces and Mubarak's longtime defence minister.

Sheikh Hisham Attiya, the imam leading the Muslim noon prayers in the square, called for an independent panel to investigate the deaths and prosecute those responsible.

The clashes have piled pressure on the SCAF, with both liberals and Islamists facing off in Egypt's first post-revolt elec-

tions condemning its handling of the transition.

"The military council is an extension of the old regime; it has the same mentality and uses the same tactics," said protester Mohammed Farrag, 31.

Police abuse was a driving force behind the popular uprising that ousted Mubarak.

The SCAF denies ordering the use of force against protesters but has apologised to the women of Egypt for "any transgressions" after several shocking videos have surfaced showing brutality against protesters, but it is the beating of women that caused has enraged people.

Videos posted on social networking sites over the past week show soldiers savagely beating women with truncheons or throwing them to the ground.

In one instance, which drew worldwide attention, a veiled woman was thrown down, her top ripped away to expose her bra and a soldier kicked her in the chest.

The beatings sparked a backlash, with thousands of women marching through Tahrir Square on Tuesday in protest against the military junta.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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a Merry Christmas.

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EU offers further 3 mln euros in aid to Haiti

BRUSSELS, (AFP) - The European Commission yesterday allocated a further three million euros (\$3.9 million) to help Haiti address continuing problems caused by the earthquake that devastated the country in January 2010.

"There remain significant humanitarian needs that the Haitian government cannot

handle alone. We must also ensure that there is a successful transition from relief to reconstruction," said Humanitarian Aid commissioner Kristalina Georgieva.

The funds bring the total of humanitarian funding to Haiti by the European Commission in 2011 to 38.5 million euros.

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International News

66 journalists killed, 1,044 arrested this year: RSF



Tegucigalpa : A journalist with her mouth taped takes part in a protest against the murder of colleagues, in Tegucigalpa. In the past two years, and under the government of Porfirio Lobo, 17 journalists have been killed in Honduras.

PARIS (AFP) - Sixty-six journalists were killed and more than 1,000 arrested this year, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said Thursday, naming cities in Syria, Egypt and Libya among the world's most dangerous places for the media.

The press freedom group for the first time compiled the world's 10 most dangerous places for the media -- ranging from the Egyptian capital Cairo, to Misrata in Libya and the Khuzdar district in Pakistan's southern Baluchistan province.

RSF said a tumultuous year, which included the Arab Spring uprisings and the felling of several veteran Arab dictators, saw a 16 per cent rise compared to last year in the number of journalists arrested worldwide.

"Street protests in other countries such as Greece, Belarus, Uganda, Chile and the

United States were responsible for the dramatic surge in the number of arrests, from 535 in 2010 to 1,044 in 2011," RSF said in a statement.

It said 20 journalists were killed in the Middle East and an equal number in Latin America "which is very exposed to the threat of criminal violence."

"For the second year running, Pakistan was the single deadliest country with a total of 10 journalists killed, most of them murdered. China, Iran and Eritrea continue to be the world's biggest prisons for the media," the group added.

RSF said the world's deadliest places for journalists this year also included Ivory Coast's economic capital Abidjan, where a bloodbath after contested polls claimed around 3,000 lives; Mexico's drug-infested Veracruz state, and the islands of Luzon and Mindanao in the Philippines.

Brazil unsure about recall of breast implants

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazilian health authorities said Friday they had not yet decided whether to advise 25,000 women who obtained breast implants from troubled French firm PIP to have them removed.

France's health ministry earlier recommended that the 30,000 women in the country with the implants have them taken out, saying that while there is no proven cancer risk, they could rupture dangerously.

Tens of thousands of women around the world have the same implants, made from industrial rather than medical quality silicone.

Breast implants produced by the now-bankrupt Poly Implant Prothese were banned in Brazil in April 2010 when problems were first reported, but 25,000 implants had already been performed, according to ANVISA. Around 100,000 women get silicone breast implants in Brazil each year.

PIP was shut down and its products banned last year after it was revealed to have been using non-authorized silicone gel that caused abnormally high rupture rates in its implants.

Facing financial difficulties, the company, once the world's third-largest producer of silicone implants, replaced the medical-grade silicone in its implants with industrial-strength material.

Documents obtained by

AFP showed that tens of thousands of women in more than 65 countries, mainly in South America and western Europe, received implants produced by PIP, which ceased trading last year.

"The medical facts that we know suggest that these implants can rupture earlier and with a greater risk of inflammatory reaction," said Brazilian Society of Plastic Surgery president Jose Horacio Aboudib.

Calling the French move "more of a political decision than a medical one," he said his group in Brazil recommended that women who received the implants get tested early to make sure the implants were viable.

Venezuela's union of plastic surgeons agreed, declining to recommend that women with the PIP implants get them removed, recommending preventative checkups instead.

The Health Ministry has not yet provided an official recommendation.

Venezuela's union of plastic surgeons president Marisol Graterol did not indicate how many women had received the implants in Venezuela, but said the country had taken steps since 2010 to ban imports and marketing of the products.

Venezuela, where about 40,000 breast augmentations are performed each year and women regularly go under the knife, has been a regular top contender for Miss Universe.

Dutch court turns down Trafigura appeal on toxic waste

THE HAGUE (AFP) - An Amsterdam appeals court Friday upheld a million-euro fine against multinational oil trader Trafigura for the illegal export of toxic waste, later dumped in Ivory Coast after a stopover in the Netherlands.

"The Court of Appeal considers (it) proved that Trafigura failed to disclose the hazardous character of the waste to the APS (Amsterdam Port Service)," it said in a statement, adding that "moreover, Trafigura illegally exported the waste to the Ivory Coast."

Prosecutors and Trafigura appealed the original July 2010 sentence. The prosecution on November 17 asked the court to impose a two-mil-

lion-euro (\$2.6 million) fine on Trafigura, and a 150,000 euro fine against the APS after the ship Probo Koala arrived in Amsterdam before being redirected to Abidjan in July 2006.

Environmental group Greenpeace said in a statement Friday it was "pleased international crimes committed against the environment by Trafigura have been punished."

"This ruling is a warning to all companies who see Africa as a dumping ground," said Marietta Harjono, who heads Greenpeace's campaign against toxic waste.

On July 2, 2006, toxic residues on board the Probo Koala were prevented from being offloaded for treatment

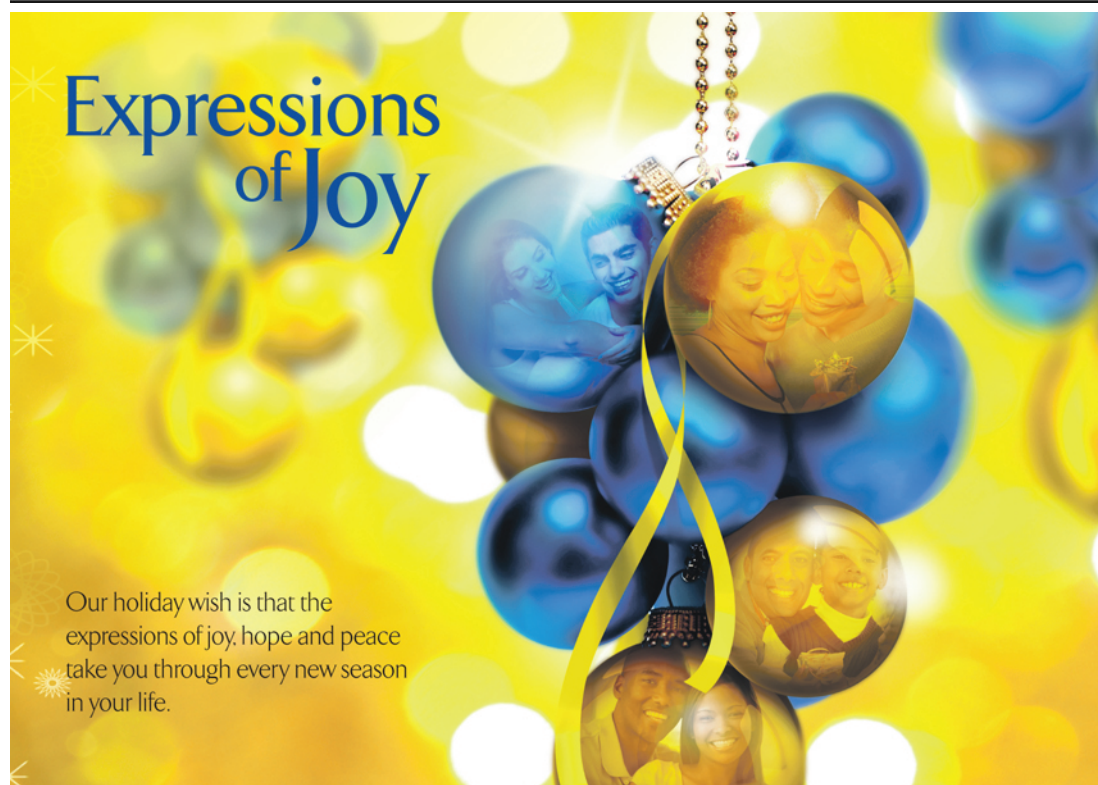
in Amsterdam's port and redirected to Abidjan, where they were dumped on city waste tips.

Trafigura, which denies any link between the waste and subsequent deaths and has an independent experts' report backing its stance, reached out of court settlements for 33 million euros and 152 million euros in Britain and Ivory Coast that exempted it from legal proceedings.

But a United Nations report published in September 2009 found "strong" evidence blaming the waste for at least 15 deaths and several hospitalisations.

The dumping caused 17 deaths and thousands of cases of poisoning, Ivorian judges said.

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ARZU customized jewelry opens at Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall



Candy Rasmijn and shop partner Haydelyn Thijssen share a toast with Ray Buckley of Valero



Candy with husband Donny Rasmijn

Any woman who has gone through the process of hunting and searching for that exactly right piece of jewelry to go with a special dress for a special occasion, will thoroughly appreciate the artistry of ARZU and its owners, Candy Rasmijn Reino and Haydelyn Thijssen, who personally design and create every piece in their new store that opened on Thursday evening at the Paseo Herencia shopping center.

Candy and Haydelyn share a "passion for fashion," and also the craft of hand made accessories; they use a diversity of unique materials and offer not only what they have on display, but will create a custom piece to suit your personality or as mentioned, perfectly match a particular outfit.

"Each necklace, bracelet and ring or set of earring is meant to emphasize the individuality of the wearer," Candy explains. "They each have a feeling-a language of its own, which I feel embodies the free creative process." She designs many of her custom pieces after conversing with a client to get an impression of what they want and need. What she considers the crowning glory of this new collection are two ensembles inspired by the

book "Wired that Way: The Comprehensive Personality Plan" by Dr. Marita Littauer.

"This book is a guide to understanding and maximizing your personality, and that is what our jewelry is all about, reflections of the self, with various designs that express various emotions. We believe these sorts of personalized pieces will have a huge fashion impact."

Island fashionistas who eagerly anticipated the shop's opening were greeted with strawberries and champagne for a toast to welcome this elegant and beautifully appointed new addition to near the the Palm Beach mall, located in a cozy spot near the ticket booth for The Cinemas. The collection ranges from dressy items of gold wire to sporty ensembles created from red and black coral, silken chain links and



Hand made accessories

other colorful, natural materials and unusually textured stones.

If seeking some fascinating, one-of-a-kind accessory when needing to truly dress to impress, ARZU is most certainly the place to find it, or have it made especially for you. Visit their shop and consult with either Haydelyn or Candy to find the solution to this fashion dilemma and admire their lovely collection.

by Rosalie Klein



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Dutch public raises funds to restore Napoleon painting

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Amsterdam Museum has raised more than 50,000 euros from public sponsors to restore a 198-year-old painting depicting Napoleon's entrance into the city, its spokeswoman said Friday.

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(\$66,000).

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The collection was launched in October to mark the 200th anniversary of Napoleon Bonaparte's entrance into Amsterdam on October 9, 1811.

The Amsterdam Museum, hoping to collect 30,000 euros, said it was surprised by the "great success" and was considering similar initiatives in the future, Willekens added.

The painting shows the mayors of Amsterdam welcoming Napoleon and handing him the silver keys to the city's gates.

Wishing all our readers a wonderful holiday....

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night portrait is a great way to capture the mood



use a tripod to best capture night scenes

January 6, 2012 to send us your cutest, funniest, most beautiful or poignant holiday pix from Christmas and New Year's Eve to see the best of them printed in the paper and winning terrific rewards.

Just subscribing to THE MORNING NEWS online will earn you a chance to win two tickets to Bonaire with Tiara Air Aruba, and sending in your photos will earn more raffle tickets in the box

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Contest Rules:

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3. Send an e-mail to the-

morningnewsaruba@aol.com to inform the office of your user name and contact info: real name, address, & phone number, and receive 1 raffle ticket

4. Like us on Facebook, and receive a second raffle ticket

5. Raffle tickets are for final drawing on Ash Wednesday 2012;

6. Grand Prize:

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Holiday Spirit Contest: You must subscribe to submit

1. Send us your favorite holiday pix via e-mail

2. "Picks of the day and week" will appear in THE MORNING NEWS

3. Contest begins today, Tuesday, December 20 and deadline for submissions is Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM.

No submissions will be accepted after.

4. Judging is final; winners will be announced on Friday, January 6, 2012

5. Each submission earns a raffle ticket towards the Ash Wednesday drawing

Prizes for the "Share Your Spirit" Contest:

Grand Prize: 3 days/2 nights stay at Boardwalk Apartments

2nd Prize: Trip for two on Mi Dushi Sailboat

3rd Prize: Complete Play package at Cool Casino

Prize winners will receive additional raffle tickets towards final drawing, and a special surprise for the grand prize winning photo.

No purchase necessary to participate; subscription to THE MORNING NEWS and submission of photos are free; photos will only be used for Christmas promotion and owners retain all rights.

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PICKLES



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STUDY IN OPPOSITES

ACROSS

1. Shed tears
5. Untidy stack
9. Make a bouffant hairdo
14. First Amendment-supporting gp.
15. First name in daredevilry
16. Baseball's Cap
17. Gangster
18. Conifer
19. Sturm und Drang (German literary movement)
20. Ivory Coast's neighbor
21. Symbol of amity
23. Bamm Bamm's father-in-law
25. -A-Fella Records (Jay-Z's label)
26. It comes first

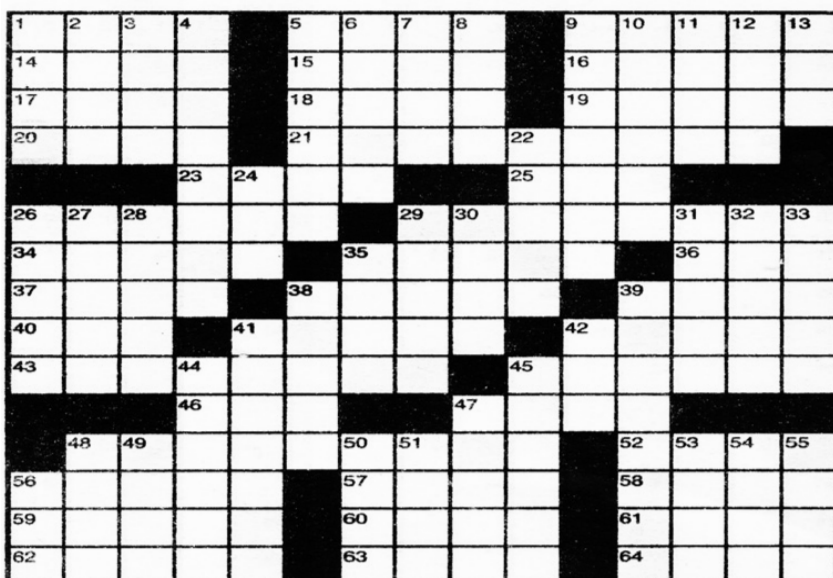
29. Sorcerers
34. Train that makes many stops
35. "Daphnis and Chloe"
36. Against: prefix
37. Lap-sitting cat's sound
38. Actor Wills
39. HS sophomore's challenge
40. Opposite of WNW
41. Like a newly waxed car
42. Annoyance
43. V-E Day headline
45. Card suit
46. Outer: prefix
47. Diverse: abbr.
48. William T. Sherman observation
52. Catchall abbr.

56. Gigi's world
57. Author — Stanley Gardner
58. It flows past Karnak
59. Deal
60. Property attachment
61. Land of mullahs
62. It sometimes lacks liquidity
63. Fake Rolex salesman's approach
64. Lotto's kin

DOWN

1. Steam-engine pioneer
2. Canyon callback
3. Tobacco chunk
4. Power struggle, figuratively

5. Jalapeño
6. Like some college walls
7. Yakutsk's river
8. Generated power: abbr.
9. Frog-to-be
10. Tenor Caruso
11. PDQ, in a memo
12. Measure of loudness
13. School course: abbr.
22. Flynn of films
24. Cath. or Prot.
26. Muesli brand
27. Have — for (can't abide)
28. Driven fastener
29. Complain nasally
30. Comrade in arms
31. Checked out, pre-heist
32. Scoundrel
33. Satisfies
35. Fashionable
38. Entropy's goal
39. Devout dove
41. Most alluring
42. Second epistolic afterthought
44. Chicken mogul Frank
45. Like some partners
47. French lasses: abbr.
48. Calls on with flowers
49. Sheridan and Blyth
50. Assist
51. She flung the Apple of Discord
53. Flag
54. Lawyer Dershowitz
55. "Leading with My Chin" author
56. Wharton deg.



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and Drug Addiction
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Telephone Helpline
583-1190
Mon.-Thu. 9 p.m.-12 midn.
Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

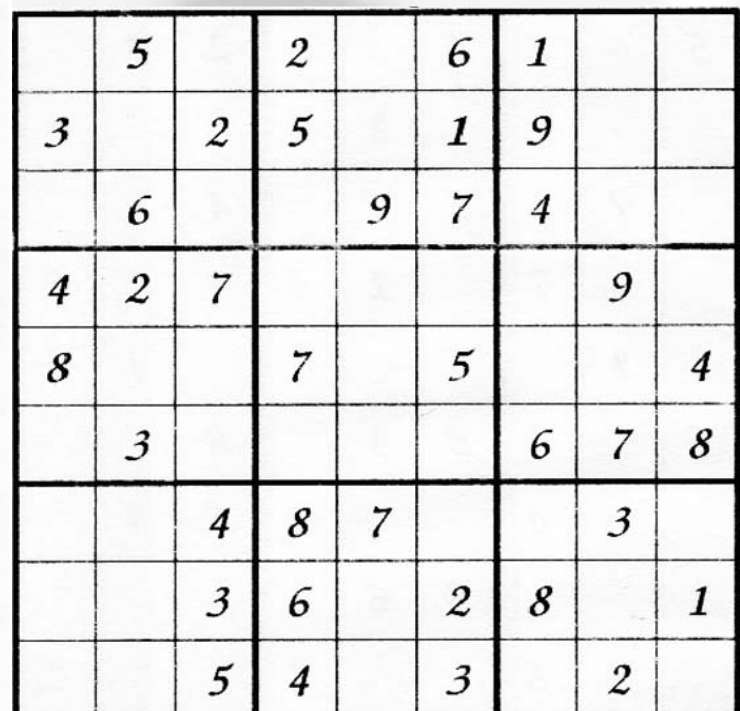
Important
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Numbers

HOSPITAL
Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. 5274000
EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

TAXI
C.V. TAS
587-1998, 587-5900
In Oranjestad:
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604
582-5447
In San Nicolas
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602
professional taxi services
Tel. 588-0035

Al Anon Meetings
Mondays 6-7pm
Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

Sudoku



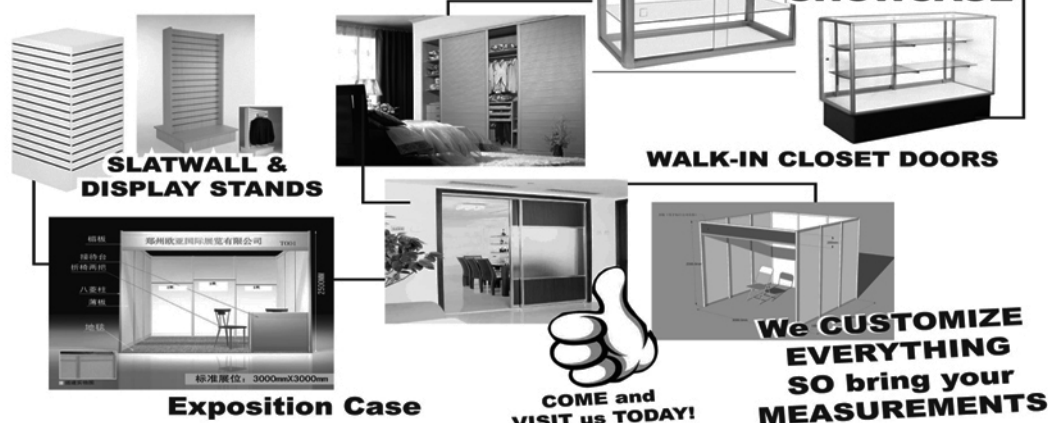
SOLUTION

6	2	4	8	1	7	5	3	9
1	7	8	2	5	9	6	4	3
9	5	3	6	4	8	7	1	2
8	4	9	7	2	6	1	5	3
7	1	2	5	9	4	8	6	3
5	6	1	8	9	1	2	7	4
2	5	7	4	6	3	8	9	1
4	9	6	1	8	5	2	7	3
3	8	1	9	7	2	6	5	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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**Finance****Continuation of the Path to Recovery****Summary of the Bulletin for the second quarter of 2011**

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concludes in its Quarterly Bulletin of the second quarter of 2011 that Aruba continued on its path to recovery. The tourism figures exceeded expectations, not only in magnitude but also in the diversification of tourist markets. Significantly more visitors from Latin America, particularly from Venezuela (+75.2 percent or 10,476 visitors), explained partly because the Easter week was celebrated in April instead of March last year, the Aruba Film Festival in June, and disappointing 2010 visitor statistics from Venezuela, resulted in a rise in stay-over arrivals. A hike in European arrivals (+12.7 percent), mainly from Italy, further aided the positive development in the number of visitors. This trend is in line with the objective of the government to pursue diversification of tourism markets. The average hotel occupancy rate, which went up to 74.1 percent in the second quarter of 2011, also reflected the positive tourist arrival figures. Remarkable was the significant rise in tourism receipts (+11.6 percent). Besides tourism, the construction sector also showed signs of recovery. On a broader note, the perception of businesses, as measured by the Business Perception Survey, re-

mained positive, albeit slightly less than in the previous quarter. Increased tax proceeds, including the BBO, profit tax, and import duties continued to backup the picture of the recovery.

This positive sketch does have some downsides. Due to the international developments in oil prices, the costs of transport and goods increased substantially, pushing up the domestic average price level by 4.3 percent in the second quarter of 2011 compared to the level recorded for the same period in 2010. Commodities that were mostly affected by price rises included meat, gasoline, water & electricity, alcoholic drinks, and cigarettes, pre-paid telephone calling, cable TV subscription, and food and beverage consumption outside the house. When the energy components are excluded from the basket, the result is a quarterly inflation of 1.6 percent.

The government's financial deficit on a cash-adjusted basis totaled Afl. 91.4 million in the second quarter of 2011. Tax revenues in the second quarter of 2011 were Afl. 207.4 million, an increase of Afl. 11.7 million compared to the figures for the second quarter of 2010 corrected for an incidental receipt from Valero. Total expenditures on a cash-adjusted basis (i.e., including the change in unmet financing requirements) grew by Afl. 22.5 million to Afl. 339.8 million. The total financing needs of the government equaled Afl. 140.3 million. They were met for the most part by the issuance of two government bonds in June 2011 amounting to Afl. 193.8 million. With these issues, the government debt rose steadily, exceeding Afl. 2.5 billion or an estimated 57.3 percent of Aruba's GDP.

Regarding the monetary developments the following can

be noted. Money supply expanded by Afl. 25.2 million to Afl. 3,204.3 million. The domestic component of the money supply contributed Afl. 33.0 million to this increase, attributable to an Afl. 16.8 million rise in credit to enterprises and an Afl. 8.6 million expansion in housing mortgages. A net outflow of foreign funds equal to Afl. 7.8 million partially offset this impact. Since the second quarter of 2010, the level of net foreign assets (including revaluation differences of gold and official foreign exchange holdings) declined by Afl. 180.5 million to Afl. 1,512.8 million at the end of June 2011. This amount is still considered adequate, reflecting 5.5 months of current account payments.

Overall, the balance of payments posted an Afl. 7.8 million deficit in the second quarter of 2011. The current account of the balance of payments recorded a surplus of Afl. 163.2 million in the second quarter of 2011, mainly attributed to a steady increase in refined oil exports as the oil refinery completed its activities in connection with the restarting of its operations. The service account surplus fell by Afl. 6.7 million to Afl. 325.2 million. The positive impact of growing tourism receipts on the services account was fully offset by substantially higher freight payments caused by the restarted crude oil imports by the refinery. The capital and financial accounts registered an Afl. 178.3 million deficit in the second quarter of 2011, primarily on account of net outflows in direct investments (-Afl. 429.8 million), which were partially compensated by net inflows in the other investments category (+Afl. 267.6 million). These results were also heavily influenced by the resumed operations of the oil refinery.

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IMF keeps 0% rate in loans for poorest

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund will keep its loan rate for the poorest countries in the world at zero percent for another year, the Fund said yesterday.

The renewal of the rate, lowered to zero for the first time ever in 2009, came automatically in the absence of any opposition to the proposal to extend it in November, said an IMF spokesman.

The rate is being kept low "in view of the current severe downside risks to the global economic outlook," according to the original November proposal to extend it.

Around 80 of the 187 IMF member countries could benefit from the low rate and currently 25 countries are getting loans at that rate, most of them in Africa.

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The painting shows the mayors of Amsterdam welcoming Napoleon and handing him the silver keys to the city's gates.

**YESTERDAY'S
Crossword Answer**

NAPA STARE ASAP
ALAS TONAL SALE
DICKVANDYKESHOW
ATE ILIA TALES
AGA ALAI
GILLIGANSISLAND
AREAL VISE SMEE
MIA RAZES AWN
USSR ITAS PATEN
THEADAMSFAMILY
PIER IMP
SITIN EARP ATM
IDREAMOFJEANNIE
LEAR EDGAR BELL
TAPS LAHRS AWED

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 12/23/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.73	2.78	2.84
Switzerland	CHF	190.12	190.84	191.64
Netherlands	EUR	230.45	232.55	234.89
Sweden	SEK	24.95	25.67	26.47
Denmark	DKK	30.32	31.04	31.84
Norway	NOK	28.91	29.63	30.43
Japan	JPY	226.08	228.15	230.44

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Happy Birthday, Joanna



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From Yanis

No Less than 2 cars on in December alone!

Mrs. Yrene Palm walks into Crystal Casino to win a brand-new Chevrolet Camaro



Last Tuesday, at exactly 2 p.m., Mrs. Yrene Palm got the surprise of her life. While playing on the 'Mystery Jackpot' slot machine she hit the perfect combination to win the BIG PRIZE, a brand new Chevrolet Camaro.

Shift Manager Mrs. Sabina Nedd and Hostess Swinda Zaraga had the honor of handing Mrs. Palm the keys of her car.

This was just another demonstration that it pays big to go the Crystal and Seaport Casinos; in 12 months they gave away 11 cars.

Visit their facebook page and stay updated of all the activities at Crystal and Seaport Casino, who knows if you will be next?



Cool Casino...where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Riu Resort has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, or best of all: cash!

December is a particularly great time to sign up to be a Cool Customer, as bonus points, which when

redeemed, not only gives terrific rewards but raffle tickets for their holiday drawing with fabulous prizes. The final drawing will be on Friday, December 16, during the live TV broadcast of "E Regalo" with local media personality



Ruben Garcia and Aruba's own "Sean Kingston" – Biggy Boy, who will be launching his new CD live from Cool Casino.

The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays

and Sundays, all are greeted with an early morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when they use their membership cards.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many to choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sunscreen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.

- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.

- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.

- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.

- Play in the Shade. The



sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

Aruba Aloe products are available at most hotels, supermarkets, pharmacies and the Aruba Aloe Stores.

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SPORTS

Cahill in line for Chelsea switch

LONDON (AFP) - Chelsea have begun talks with Bolton over a possible move for England international defender Gary Cahill, it was confirmed on Friday.

Cahill is out of contract at the end of the season and Wanderers must sell the player in the January transfer window or risk allowing the 26-year-old to leave for free in the summer.

Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas indicated the Londoners were interested in Cahill earlier this week and Bolton confirmed on Friday that talks were now under way.

"Regarding Gary Cahill, there has been dialogue between ourselves and

Chelsea. He is a top player and is fully focused on Bolton," a brief statement on Bolton's Twitter page read.

Bolton manager Owen Coyle also confirmed that another Premier League side were in the hunt for Cahill. Both Tottenham and Arsenal have been linked with the player in the past.

"There's nothing signed and sealed at the moment but it's fair to say there has been dialogue here and there," Coyle said.

"I think it's fair to say there's interest in Gary and there will be and that doesn't surprise me.

"I know that Andre is an admirer of Gary because he's

a terrific player so if there's business to be done it will be done in the right manner for the football club and for Gary.

"I've got to be upfront and tell you as I always do but that's the situation, and Gary knows as well that there are two huge games before January 1st before anything could happen.

"I've said from day one, Gary Cahill could play for anybody. I think he has those qualities."

Cahill joined Bolton from Aston Villa in 2008 in a £5million deal and has established himself as a regular in the England squad in the past year.

Russian businessman completes Monaco takeover

MONACO (AFP) - A company linked to Russian billionaire businessman Dmitry Rybolovlev has bought a controlling 66.67 percent stake in AS Monaco, the ailing French club revealed in a statement on Friday.

Monaco Sport Invest (MSI) "has committed to invest at least 100 million euros (\$130m) into Monaco Football Club over the next four years. This amount constitutes the

guaranteed minimum and can be increased if necessary," read the statement.

The remaining 33 percent stake will continue to be held by the Association Sportive de Monaco Football Club "which represents the interests of the Principality".

Monaco's Prince Albert II gave the nod for the deal to go through, saying: "The agreement which has been reached opens a new page in the his-

tory of the football team so dear to the Principality. I wish the team to regain the stature which in the past has made it one of the jewels of Monaco's sporting life.


Rybolovlev, who is based in Monaco and is described as owning the 93rd-largest fortune in the world by US publication Forbes, said: "I believe that the Club has an enormous potential and I hope that it will be able to fully realize this potential at both national and European levels."

The Russian becomes the new president of the club's board, which will be made up of six MSI representatives and three members of AS Monaco.

Monaco are one of the most decorated clubs in the French game, having won the title seven times and reached the Champions League final in 2004.

However, they were relegated from Ligue 1 at the end of last season and currently prop up the second division.


They have won just one of their first 18 games and lie three points from safety.




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BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM
COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40
TICKETS: at the theater door

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ARUBA

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WestinAruba.com/magic
MagicLive.com MagicOnTheBeach.com

Football: Argentine Simeone takes helm at Atletico Madrid

MADRID (AFP) - Atletico Madrid named former Argentina midfielder Diego Simeone as their new coach Friday, a day after firing Gregorio Manzano following a miserable run of matches.

Former Atletico player Simeone, 41, is due in Madrid Monday and will be officially presented as coach at the Vicente Calderon stadium on Tuesday.

"Atletico Madrid has hired Diego Simeone as the new first team coach" for the rest of the season and one further season, the club said in a statement Friday.

"Simeone is a great connoisseur of the red-and-whites," the statement added, citing his two stints as a player there in 1994-1997 and 2003-2005.

"He formed part of the glorious line-up that conquered the league and cup double in the 1995-1996 season."

Simeone played for Argentina in the 1994, 1998 and 2002 World Cups -- gaining notoriety at the 1998 edition when, feigning injury after a retaliatory kick from David Beckham, he got the England midfielder sent off.

He retired as a player in

2006 after a spell with Racing Avellaneda, one of several Argentine teams he went on to coach.

Atletico fired Manzano Thursday after a dismal run was capped by their elimination from the King's Cup.

Manzano apologised to fans after Atletico lost 0-1 at home to second division Albacete on Wednesday, describing it as a "real failure".

Atletico sit 10th in the Spanish top flight with only 19 points from 16 games and a 21-point deficit to neighbours Real.



Early Bird Special \$ 24.95

5pm to 7pm No service charge. Free glass of wine

Entree:
* Soup of the day- or Home salad - or Caesar Salad

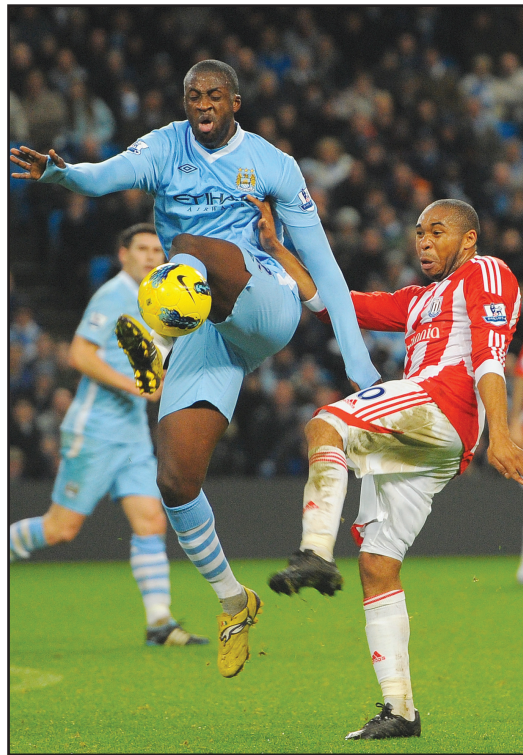
Main Dish
Home made stew chicken (jerk chicken)
or
Arawak steak
(Tenderloin steak with caramelized onions)
or
Fish Fillet (Grouper) creamy garlic or Criollo sauce.

All served with : Rice -fried plantain or polenta (funchi) with vegetables.

Dessert
Ice cream or Rum and carrots cake.

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email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com

Football: Yaya a Toure de force for club and country



Manchester City's Ivorian midfielder Yaya Toure (L) vies with Stoke City's Honduran midfielder Wilson Palacios (R)

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - CAF Footballer of the Year Kolo Toure has come a long way since being described as "average" by Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger eight years ago.

"Yaya Toure played for us in a pre-season game as a second striker and was completely average on the day," Wenger recounted to the London-based Daily Telegraph this week.

"Average" had become "metronomic" in one match report this week after Toure helped Manchester City outplay Stoke City 3-0 and remain English Premier League leaders, two points above bitterest rivals Manchester United.

Just 24 hours after Yaya had a role in the three Eastlands goals, the tall, physically imposing midfielder walked to the State House banquet hall stage in Accra and accepted the honour of being voted the African footballer this year.

Toure kept his acceptance speech short and sweet, thanking older brother and team-mate Kolo, his family and the Manchester City squad for the roles they played in his

success.

On an evening when midfielders ruled, Andre Ayew of Ghana and Marseille and Seydou Keita of Mali and Barcelona were the other finalists after a 10-man list had been reduced to five, then three on the eve of the awards ceremony.

Ayew, a son of three-time African Footballer of the Year Abedi 'Pele' Ayew, would have been a popular victor in the country where he grew up, but no one doubted that Toure was a worthy successor to Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o.

Apart from his role as a midfield driving force in the rise of City from Premier

League makeweights to FA Cup winners and title contenders, Toure has become an increasingly important figure for Ivory Coast.

The west African 'Elephants' were the only country to complete the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers with a perfect record having defeated Rwanda, Burundi and Benin at home and away.

Grouped with Angola, Burkina Faso and Sudan in the first round of the finals in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon from January 21, the Ivorians are among the title favourites for the third consecutive tournament.

It is not a tag Toure and his team-mates enjoy wearing as they have come badly unstuck in the last two African showpieces, crashing 4-1 to Egypt in the 2008 semi-finals and 3-2 to Algeria in the quarter-finals last year.

Many Ivory Coast stars have expressed a now-or-never feeling about 2012 and the absence of record seven-time champions Egypt, Algeria, Cameroon, Nigeria and South Africa can only boost the challenge for a second title.

Toure stresses the importance of football in a country that went to war with itself last year after the incumbent president refused to accept defeat at the polls.

"Our country needs people like me and (Chelsea striker) Didier Drogba at the moment and it is important we do what we can for our people," stressed the 28-year-old native of northern city Bouake.

"City will cope," he said while admitting to feeling "guilty and confused" about abandoning his club as they chase glory on four fronts -- Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Europa League.

"We have fantastic players who can take my place. I will not be away for a long time and I want to come back and help the club win the league," he told the English media.

Supporters of the 'Elephants' hope he will be away at least until February 13 -- the day after the Cup of Nations final in Libreville with many pundits predicting a west African showdown between Ivory Coast and Ghana.

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NFL: Denver controls its own destiny

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - With the postseason fast approaching, the fate of the first-place Denver Broncos rests in their own hands, as they travel to Buffalo to face the Bills this Saturday.

Of the four teams that remain in the hunt for the playoffs in the AFC West, the Broncos are the only one that controls its own destiny.

"We have to play a whole lot better if we want to win," Broncos cornerback Andre Goodman said. "We haven't played our best football yet, but I think we feel good about the position we're in, in terms of the division race and right now that's the only thing we can focus on."

There are two weeks left

in the regular season and the Broncos are seeking to return to the postseason for the first time in a half dozen years.

If the Broncos beat Buffalo and the Kansas City Chiefs at home in the final week of the season, they would reach the postseason for the first time since the 2005 season.

Denver could also clinch the division with a victory this weekend and an Oakland Raiders' loss at Kansas City today.

The Broncos take an 8-6 record into the final stages of the regular season. In 2008 and 2009, Denver lost their final three games and failed to make the postseason.

Denver's six-game win-

ning streak ended with a 41-23 loss to New England on Sunday, bringing back memories of those season-ending failures.

The Broncos have a one-game division lead over Oakland and San Diego, and are two games ahead of Kansas City.

The Bills are hoping to avoid their eighth consecutive loss today at Ralph Wilson Stadium.

The week kicked off Thurs-



Arian Foster #23 of the Houston Texans runs with the ball during the NFL game against the Indianapolis Colts at Lucas Oil Stadium on December 22, 2011 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

day night with the Indianapolis Colts winning their second straight game by beating the Houston Texans 19-16. The Colts had lost their first 13 games of the season.

With Christmas Day on Sunday, the majority of the games are being played in week 16 on Saturday so players can spend the holiday with their families.

In Saturday games it is St. Louis at Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay at Carolina, Minnesota at Washington, Oakland at Kansas City, Cleveland at Baltimore, Miami at New

England, Jacksonville at Tennessee, New York Giants at New York Jets, Arizona at Cincinnati, San Diego at Detroit, Philadelphia at Dallas and San Francisco at Seattle.

In the lone game on Christmas, the Chicago Bears will have their hands full with Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers who lost last week but rarely has two poor games in a row.

The Monday night game features the red-hot New Orleans Saints against the equally impressive Atlanta Falcons.



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